

Revolutionary's End:

Bolivia Buries Guevara Near Jungle Battle Site

Washington Post Foreign Service

LA PAZ, Oct. 11—Ernesto Che Guevara, the Communist revolutionary whose name has been a mystical force among Latin American leftists for almost a decade, today apparently reached the final stop of his violent road—a grave near the Bolivian jungle outpost of Vallegrande.

Bolivian government officials indicated today that they had decided to bury the body of the guerrilla leader where he was killed.

The decision to bury Guevara in the remote area terrorized by guerrillas for the past seven months marked a reversal of the government's original plan to bring the body to La Paz.

As recently as this morning, the government considered

the possibility of bringing the body here for inspection by members of the Bolivian Congress and investigators from an international group such as the Organization of America States.

Underlying this plan was the desire to establish even more definitely that the man killed in a fight with Bolivian troops Sunday was indeed Guevara. Although Bolivia has built up an impressive case of identification based on fingerprints, physical resemblance and the dead man's alleged dying statements,

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Guevara's death signals end to Bolivian guerrillas.

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there inevitably would be some lingering doubts.

However, the prompt burial apparently met other considerations. One, according to government sources, was the very practical problem of preserving the body in the intense heat of Vallegrande, where it had reposed in a hospital morgue.

In addition, there is the question of taste. There already has been considerable adverse reaction to the gruesome photograph of the body plastered across the front pages of La Paz newspapers today.

President Rene Barrientos Ortuño said last night that Guevara, like any other man, deserved the respect of a speedy burial.

There were reports that the Bolivian armed forces commander, Gen. Alfredo Ovando Candia, was accompanied to Vallegrande by a Cuban-exile CIA agent. Upon examination, however, the only basis for this charge appears to be the fact that the unidentified man in question was heard to speak English.

The U.S. Embassy here, in line with a policy it has followed since the beginning of the guerrilla movement, declined any comment. It was learned, however, that Ambassador Douglas Henderson personally countermanded a plan to send embassy observers with Ovando. The only person connected with the Embassy known to have made yesterday's trip was a Bolivian national employee who went to take photographs of the corpse.

[A \$4000 reward for Guevara's capture will be given to the village of Higueras,

near where he was killed, President Barrientos said Wednesday night. United Press International quoted Barrientos as saying the money would be used for the construction of schools and roads in the village.]

Diary Shows Guevara Tried to Flee Bolivia

LA PAZ, Oct. 11 (UPI)—Che Guevara felt that he had failed in his mission and was seeking to flee the country when he was slain, his alleged field diary revealed today.

As recently as Aug. 31, after an army patrol killed his principal Bolivian aide, Coco Peredo, an item in the diary said: "this seems to be reaching its end."

The diary complained of the stolid indifference of the Indian peasantry.

Last Saturday, the diary indicated, Guevara sought to bribe a peasant woman and her daughter for 50 Bolivian pesos (about \$4) to show him an escape route from the landlocked country.

In Havana, Associated Press reported, the official newspaper Granma said it lacked sufficient information to accept or reject Bolivia's announcement of the death of Guevara, but its treatment indicated the government viewed the report seriously. The paper gave a front-page account of statements about Guevara, all drawn from Western news services.

[In Washington, U.S. officials were inclined to rate as true the Bolivian army's claim to have killed Guevara, a State Department spokesman said.]